



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/616,852	07/09/2003	Malcolm Reginald Hallis Bell	1193-4049	1841
27123	7590	06/15/2006	EXAMINER	
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P. 3 WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER NEW YORK, NY 10281-2101			SHAPIRO, JEFFERY A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3653	

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/616,852	Applicant(s) BELL ET AL.	
	Examiner Jeffrey A. Shapiro	Art Unit 3653	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) .
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/6/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/6/06 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Molbak (US 6,494,776 B1) in view of Dobbins et al (US 5,730,272). Molbak discloses, as described in **Claims 1, 8, 14, 20, 21 and 27**, several automatic coin counting devices (100), each with a coin acceptor (1872), said coin acceptor connected with and communicating over a network through network interface/communication means (1826, 1828). See also col. 4, line 59-col. 5, line 5 and col. 11, line 66-col. 12, line 61. See also figures 2, 18a and 18b.

Molbak does not expressly disclose, but Dobbins discloses a currency acceptor (10) having a sensing means (see Dobbins, elements 21, 22, 24 and 25 and col. 6, lines

Art Unit: 3653

60-66), processing means (35), said processing means sending an alarm upon detection of a fraud attempt, said alarm causing said processor to modify its acceptance criteria. See Dobbins, col. 2, lines 14-18 and col. 7, lines 1-59, noting in particular col. 7, lines 44-60.

Dobbins also discloses, as described in **Claims 2-6, 9-13, 15-19, 22-26 and 28-32**, said condition comprises at least one of the sensed parameters since inductive sensor (26) senses coin parameters including diameter and material. Additionally, as described, for example, in col. 2, lines 15-17 and col. 7, lines 12-30, the window of an acceptance region of genuine coins is made smaller so as to segregate and therefore increase the rejection of fraudulent coins.

Both Molbak and Dobbins are considered to be analogous art because they both concern currency discrimination systems.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to replace Molbak's currency discrimination system with that of Dobbins' discrimination system and method of rejecting non-genuine coins upon detection of a fraud attempt, causing the acceptance criteria/acceptance window to be changed so as to screen out said non-genuine coins. See Dobbins, cited above. Note that it would have also been obvious to communicate said information over Molbak's communication means since Molbak's system discloses such communication between the coin acceptor and the central computer facility. See Molbak Claim 1, for example.

The suggestion/motivation would have been to improve acceptance and rejection of coins, including an improved rate of rejection by modifying the acceptance criteria.

Art Unit: 3653

See Dobbins, col. 2, lines 8-15. Note also that Molbak describes providing modem communications for uploading or downloading data in col. 12, lines 11-21, of which acceptance alarms and currency discriminator acceptance criteria is considered to be such data which can be easily communicated through a modem connection to a central computer.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 2/6/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's independent claims recite "communication means, associated with the processing means, and adapted to send and receive alarm signals from the acceptor and from other acceptors, via a network." Note that Molbak discloses a central computing facility that communicates with many coin counters/sorters. Each coin counter/sorter has a coin acceptor. The acceptor (1872) passes information from it to an I/O board (1842), to processor (1812), through modem (1826) and to a central computer facility. The computer facility can in similar, but reverse fashion download information to said acceptor. Other acceptors in other coin sorters can similarly handle data either uploaded to or downloaded from the central computer facility. Molbak's computer facility along with the modem can be reasonably, broadly construed to be "communication means." This "communication means" can be construed to be "associated with said processing means" of a particular coin acceptor. The term "associated" can mean either related to or connected in function to another. See Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 10th ed., p.70. Additionally, the term "adapted" is used in reference to sending and receiving signals from the acceptor to another

Art Unit: 3653

acceptor, which indicates intended use language, and therefore Molbak only has to be adapted to perform the task. Molbak has the communication means and network, as described above.

Note also that Molbak describes a coin acceptor (1872). This coin acceptor is part of coin counting/sorting system (1306). Non-acceptable coins are rejected at steps (435) of figure 4 and (535) of figure 5. Col. 21, lines 8-9 states that these rejected coins are "returned to the user". The bags Applicant's Representative refers to are clearly for accepted genuine coins, since these bagged coins are removed by security personnel. See Molbak, figure 20, element 2006.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for Molbak's coin acceptors to communicate fraud alarm information, as taught by Dobbins, to and from the central computer facility.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Walker et al '741 is cited as an example of gaming devices with coin validators connected to a communication server (200). Winters '316 discloses coin counting machines with coin validators connected to a communications link (504) to a central computer as well as to other machines. Note dotted line between coin machines in figure 5.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey A. Shapiro whose telephone number is

Art Unit: 3653

(571)272-6943. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene O. Crawford can be reached on (571)272-6911. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



JAS

June 11, 2006



GENE O. CRAWFORD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER